

Serial No. 10/684,628

Dkt.: P-10033.02

Filing Date: October 14, 2003

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TREATMENT OF ATRIAL TACHYARRHYTHMIAS

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of ablation to provide a desired set of lesions, comprising:
 - (a) providing an ablation apparatus having a pair of jaw components, each jaw component having an elongated shapeable section, each elongated shapeable section having one or more ablation elements extending along its length ~~carrying means~~ for applying ablation energy along the shapeable section, at least one jaw component having ~~and~~ a sharpened distal tip;
 - (b) shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component to display a desired configuration corresponding to one of the desired lesions;
 - (c) piercing an atrial wall with the sharpened distal tip;
 - (d) employing the ablation apparatus to create the desired lesion;
 - (e) thereafter reshaping the shapeable section of each jaw component to display a desired configuration corresponding to another of the desired lesions;
 - (f) repeating steps b, c, d and e as necessary provide the desired set of lesions.
2. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises manually bending the ~~shapeable~~ shapeable section.
3. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises bending the shapeable section using a bending fixture.
4. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises selecting a bending fixture from among a set of fixtures and bending the shapeable section using the selected bending fixture.
5. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises configuring a bending fixture to define the desired configuration and bending the shapeable section using the configured bending fixture.

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6. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the ablation apparatus comprises selecting an ablation apparatus having a generally straight memorized configuration.
7. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein selecting the ablation apparatus comprises providing an ablation apparatus having a memorized configuration corresponding to a desired lesion.
8. (original) A method as in claim 7, comprising employing the ablation apparatus in its memorized configuration to create the desired lesion
9. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein reshaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises heating the shapeable section.
10. (currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein reshaping the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises heating the ~~shapable~~ shapeable section by means of a heater mounted to the ~~shapable~~ shapeable section.
11. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises a shape memory material.
12. (currently amended) A system for providing a desired set of lesions, comprising:
 - (a) an ablation apparatus having a pair of jaw components, each jaw component having an elongated shapeable section, each elongated shapeable section having one or more ablation elements extending along its length ~~carrying means~~ for applying ablation energy along the shapeable section, ~~the~~ each shapeable section comprising a member of shapeable material, at least one jaw component having ~~and~~ a sharpened distal tip for piercing atrial wall tissue; and

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(b) fixturing ~~means~~ apparatus for shaping the shapeable section of each jaw component to display multiple, predetermined configurations corresponding to the desired lesions.

13. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, wherein the fixturing ~~means~~ apparatus comprises a set of fixtures defining curvatures corresponding to the desired configurations.

14. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, wherein the fixturing ~~means~~ apparatus comprises a configurable fixture capable of defining multiple curvatures corresponding to the desired configurations.

15. (currently amended) A system ~~as in claim 12 wherein the~~ for providing a desired set of lesions, comprising:

an ablation apparatus comprises comprising an electrosurgical hemostat having elongated shapeable jaws, each jaw carrying means for applying ablation energy along the shapeable section, the shapeable section comprising a member of shapeable material, and a sharpened distal tip for piercing atrial wall tissue; and

a bending fixture for shaping the shapeable section of each jaw to display multiple, predetermined configurations corresponding to the desired lesions, wherein the bending fixture comprises means for retaining the jaws in a parallel arrangement.

16. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, wherein the shapeable section of each jaw component has a generally straight memorized configuration.

17. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, wherein the shapeable section of each jaw component has a memorized configuration corresponding to a desired lesion.

18. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, wherein a heater is located on the shapeable section of each jaw component.

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19. (currently amended) A system ~~as in claim 12, wherein the~~ for providing a desired set of lesions, comprising:

an ablation apparatus ~~comprises~~ comprising an electrosurgical hemostat having elongated shapeable jaws having electrodes extending along their length for applying ablation energy along the shapeable section, the shapeable section comprising a member of shapeable material, and a sharpened distal tip for piercing atrial wall tissue; and

fixturing means for shaping the shapeable section to display multiple, predetermined configurations corresponding to the desired lesions.

20. (currently amended) A system as in claim ~~12~~ 19, further comprising means for delivery of conductive fluid along the length of the electrodes.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (new) A method as in claim 1, wherein the ablation elements are electrodes.

22. (new) A method as in claim 1, wherein the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises shapeable material.

23. (new) A method as in claim 3; wherein the bending fixture retains the jaws in a parallel arrangement.

24. (new) A system as in claim 12, wherein the fixturing apparatus retains the jaws in a parallel arrangement.

25. (new) A system as in claim 12, wherein the ablation elements are electrodes.

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26. (new) A system as in claim 12, wherein the shapeable section of each jaw component comprises shapeable material.